

Sayre House  
Bordentown, Burlington County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Sayre House  
Bordentown, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: John H. Hutchinson

Date of Erection: Early nineteenth century

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame  
construction, siding

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - mansard

Historical Data:

This house originally stood on part of the Thomas Farnsworth tract. It passed from Thomas to his son John, and from him Joseph Borden purchased the property around 1717. It remained in the Borden family until 1792. It was sold in 1793 to Elizabeth Sayre, wife of Stephen Sayre, and by her sold to the agents of Joseph Bonaparte in 1817.

Stephen Sayre was born in Southampton, Long Island. The first members of his family had originally settled in Massachusetts. In 1740 Stephen sailed to

England; here he married a lady of fortune. He became the High Sheriff of London in 1774. When the Revolutionary War broke out his sympathies were with the Colonies. He was arrested for high treason in 1775 and imprisoned in the tower of London. He was tried and acquitted, but lost his property. During the course of the war he was employed by Benjamin Franklin and went on several missions for him; he served for a time also as his private secretary. In 1783 he came to America with his wife Elizabeth and his son Samuel, taking up residence at Point Breeze, where he lived for twenty years.

After the property was purchased for Joseph Bonaparte, the house was sold to Mr. Mc Knight and moved to its present site on Farnsworth Avenue. This is the version as told by Magee; however, there are others who doubt that the house was ever moved and was built on its present site. A search of the records at Mt. Holly reveals that William Mc Knight came into possession through one Jacob Baishlate in 1828. That is as far as the Burlington County records go.


#### Bibliography:

Magee, J. D. Bordentown 1682-1932  
Bordentown, Bordentown Register, 1932

Search of Burlington County Court Records  
by Betty R. Bishop, Burlington County  
office

  
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Supervising Historian

Approved:

  
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SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

DW 8/4/9